



MARINE AVIATION LOGISTICS SQUADRON 31

Welcome Letter from the Commanding Officer

May 2012



Dear Marines, Sailors, and Families,

Welcome to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31 (MALS-31)! Whether you are a MALS-31 Marine or Sailor, or the spouse, child, parent, extended family member, or fiancée of a MALS-31 Marine or Sailor, you are now a member of the Stinger Family.

MALS-31 is one of the squadrons of Marine Aircraft Group 31 (MAG-31). Originally activated on February 1st, 1943 as HQSQ-31, the Stingers have served this great nation with distinction throughout multiple conflicts as well as in times of peace while providing support for several different types of aircraft. Currently, we support the F/A-18 Hornet. Please take a moment to read the MALS-31 History included in your Welcome Aboard Package.

As you become familiar with MALS-31, I invite you to read my Command Philosophy. It lays out how this squadron operates and the concepts that are important to us as a unit. It describes enablers, values, and guidance for achieving our mission, which is:

The mission of MALS-31 is to provide the squadrons of MAG-31 the highest level of material readiness and logistical support within the DoN and unequalled personnel deployment readiness while developing Marines and Sailors within the command and taking care of the Stinger Family.

In order to be successful in our mission, the Stinger Marines, Sailors and Families must be prepared for any given situation at any given time. Your Marine/Sailor will be preparing for work-ups and deployments, and sometimes they will work long hours. Please be aware that YOUR Family Readiness Program is available to you 24/7 for support, referral, and to provide information to assist you not only in your transition to MALS-31 but throughout your time as part of the Stinger Family.

Stinger Family Readiness is extremely important to my wife Debbie and me. Our FRO is Ms. Evie Plumb, and she is the central point of contact for MALS-31 family readiness issues. Evie may be reached at 843-228-6438, 843-476-2960, or evelyn.plumb@usmc.mil. Other members of the Family Readiness Team include the department chiefs who will ensure information is passed to the Marines and Sailors in their charge. We also have Family Readiness Volunteers who give their time as able to help with things like family days and activities welcoming home Stingers from deployment.

A **crucial** part of the Family Readiness Team are **Family Readiness Assistants**. These are spouses who have experience with their Marine/Sailor deploying, have a passion for wanting to help the families of those who work with their Marine/Sailor, and are willing to commit to a year of taking care of fellow Stinger families. Taking care of the families includes, but is not limited to: making welcome calls to spouses of those joining MALS-31, making monthly check-up calls to the spouses of deployed MALS-31 Marines and Sailors, and being a point of contact to spouses who have questions or concerns. Family Readiness Assistants are an extension of the FRO and myself. If you are the spouse of a Staff NCO and have a passion for other families, please consider becoming a Family Readiness Assistant.

The official MALS-31 web site is <http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndmaw/mag31/mals31/Pages/default.aspx>. You can find my command philosophy as well as various policy letters, leadership biographies, unit history, photos, and other information there. Finally, in addition to e-mail, newsletters, and phone calls for passing information, please know that MALS-31 is embracing social media. If you would like to follow me on Twitter, you can find me at Twitter/@GrayMarine. Also, MALS-31 can be found on Facebook at MALS31Stingers or MALS31.

Congratulations on joining the Stinger Family. I am honored to serve with you, and look forward to meeting you and your family in the near future.

Semper Fidelis,

WILLIAM C. GRAY

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, MALS-31